

Howdy. Howdy, folks, and welcome the Moose Podcast number 383, Ready for Spring.

How are your folks doing? Can you believe it? Here we are, February 5th already. By January is in the books. What a month. Crazy weather. Crazy like, crazy good times. Hopefully it was good for you. I do appreciate you folks taking the time to say hello. A number of you on my travels in January is a number of places took the time to say hello. Introduce yourselves in the media. I and you have very kind words and I'm very grateful. So thank you so much. And I appreciate all of you taking some precious time for your week to stop by. Give it a listen. Some you give back some feedback and I'm grateful. So, you know, it's we're off to the races for 2024 and I'm glad that I get to be a little part of yours. This week again, I'm using the Adobe Beta Podcast to record. The transcript will be on the blog, the podcast, blog and starting I believe it's coming week. Maybe it's next week. iTunes will be doing transcripts for all the podcast on iTunes as well. So there's going to be two options for transcripts, and I haven't seen what iTunes is going to do. I am very curious to see if they do a little bit better than what I have been posting. But anyway, there will be at least two options for transcripts. Just. Just for giggles sake, Jake and I will be at a booth at the Montana Aviation Conference in Butte, Montana, at the end of the month, beginning of March. What are we doing there? We are just there to say hello. Get to know a few more people in Montana who like to fly. And if you have desire, if you're in the town, if you're in the area, well, come on by. We love to say hello. See if we can help and shoot the breeze. So that's the Montana Aviation Conference in the month in Butte, Montana. Well I think my good friends are Bedford camera Bedford dot com. Now have you head there. And of course you should, because you're a photographer. You need gear just as much as I had there. And you'll see in the top banner that there is a bunch of Nikon discounts, sales going on that are administered through the camera store. Well, I had this question a couple of times in the last ten days. Yes. You get that discount from that frugal icon and you also get on top of that the most discount, that 5% comes off after you check out. That makes for some tidy savings, especially if you're getting some bigger glass. Now, put this little thought in your head. If you go to Nikon's, the NPS site and you sign up, I believe they call it platinum. That's their top tier. You sign up for that, you're going to pay \$350. To become a platinum member, but you get that \$350 back on your purchase. So you get all the benefits of being the platinum, all those things that list on the website. So you get that money back. You go to Bedford, you get that money back. You get the sales price back. You get the 5% discount from the moose discount. We're talking about real savings. And then on top of that, because that's not enough, you've got their already very low prices. So Bedford's they've got the gear excuse me, the service, the product and the price tell must sentia better for. Thanks for sponsoring the Moose podcast. Well. Are you ready for spring? Yeah, I hope so. What's his name? The groundhog dunks it. Phil said that it's going to be early spring. Some of us here in Montana wonder if winter ever happened. It is. I'm looking out there, sadly, at a lot of big patches of dirt here at the homestead, which. A little disconcerting. We were in Yellowstone two weeks ago and it was it was it was it was dry and technically warm considering the past. So spring is coming early. Had some folks say that they've got some birds nesting already, which on the southern part of the U.S. is not that unheard of. Hummingbirds, great grouse, things like that. But a number of folks have said they've got birds and breeding plumage, which really seems spooky. So if you're ready for spring or not, you better get ready and let's talk about that. So there's two aspects to this. One is the critters and one are the aircraft. I'm going to start with critters. So

right now and I've talked about this before and it's something I've been doing myself. If you go out and you look at a lot of the shrubs, trees, foliage and. You will see that they are kind of bare because it's wintertime and nesses pop right out of job where soon as they start to leaf out they don't discovered black build magpie nesses was not aware of that is basically eye level just what was that. Geez six days ago I found that I don't know how I missed all this time, but boom, there it was. So the point is, one thing you can start doing, you're ready for spring is to start looking for those projects, those things you want to photograph now that are spring oriented. And one of them, of course, is nesting birds. There's a ton of resources on my website with Reason.com about photographing nesting birds that people get very worried about it. You can do it safely. You can do it ethically. It's really rewarding. It's I should say it's a lot of fun that I just can't encourage you enough to start doing. Now is the time you want to think about it because you find that nest you won't get out. My favorite bird by Collins nest eggs and nestlings that describes everything about the the basic biology about that nest and it starts to help you if you see that nest, like how do I know as a black billed magpie? I've been doing it for a while. I know what they kind of were they do how they do it kind of thing. So then I go to the book and I can I find out when they typically lay eggs. And of course that data might be changing as we start, you know, or start as we continue to fast pace our our climate clock here. But it gives you idea of when they're going to lay eggs, how long they sit on the eggs. You can start doing your plotting. You can look at what land you might need, where exactly lighting if possible, what time of day is going to be good for that nest site. Now is the time to start. Kind of do all that planning as much as you can. I mean, keep in mind that things will pop up the boom. All sudden you'll find things you didn't know were going on. But finding them now, being prepared, it's just makes really good sense. I put a blog post up about the Somalia saw so liml o men so eyoma so lemme sollima that's it. So Neema Hummingbird feeder. Sorry about that sollima this past week, which is, as I mentioned, the blog post, another tool I'm going to use to see when hummingbirds show up. Here are the homes that the first time so that I can be a little more proactive at finding their nests. And I know they nested somewhere in the general vicinity because I saw the kids and going back to nest eggs nest things by Collin you can can I get a little idea how far they range. There's a number of other books out there also can give you some idea. So I know that they they nested within sight of the deck. Doesn't mean they're in sight. It says their site, not my site, but that little device, that camera on that. A hummingbird feeder is another way of getting ready for spring. Help me get that stuff up and going now. Part of the spring process, it always seems like to me, is flash auxiliary light comes in in a number of ways. One spring is when birds have their best plumage. And I use flash not for exposure, but for color. So yeah, I use Flash. I don't use it near enough or offered up, I should say. So I did get it out and I just made sure that the numbers that I use last year things for f stop power ratio are that pro photo at ten in the distance I checked it out to make sure is still working within how I see the story this year and that's really important. Last year was last year I looked at those pictures, I made some mental notes, a couple of physical notes and some things I'm going to do to improve my lighting. So you don't see it. You just see those colors pop out. So to do that, pull that, flash out. Charge that the batteries both physical and mental. Did a little bit of practice because Murphy's Law is you don't practice awesome. It's going to be panic time and it's like, oh no, here's the opportunity. I'm not ready for it. At least that's how I, I find it for myself. So those are a couple very important things I think I mentioned is that I do use the

Nikon Pro Staff binoculars. They are physically small, they're light, they're bright, they're sharp, they're very inexpensive. And I let my binoculars do as much walking as my feet. So I'm trying not to be intrusive in what's going on in that the whole scenario of birds, because they're going to start coming back. And I haven't seen any migratory information of birds coming back yet, but you know, they're going start coming back north. You know, this the system and I want them to come and not see, you know, this big guy going through their habitat. And I know a nest here is a big guy going through my habitat. So binoculars really important. But they will put out and it probably will put it out for another month. Got to see what the weather does may be might be march is we get lit I shouldn't say we share he gets lint from the clothes dryer kind of tears it up a little bit because it gets compacted and we put it in a lint feeder. It looks like it's a cylinder bird feeder, but it's kind of gotten a little one inch squares, maybe a half inch squares. And birds go in there, they pull this lid out, they use it as nest material. It she'll go through and she'll fill that fill that lint thing three or four times during the nesting season to encourage birds to come and nest. We have this year, which we never had before. We've got that carcass that. Yeah. It's still there. I can see, I can see it right now and it has a bit of fur left on the Cape. A lot of birds will be yanking on that fur. Use that for this material. And there are some plants that you can plant that will have natural down that come out. Those too can be used and all those things encourage birds to nest there on your property. And that just makes for great photographic opportunities. Okay. What about the plants? Well, you might not be aware, but this past weekend, the first fly in official fly in for 2024 occurred down outside of Phenix called the cactus fly in. So. Yeah, it's, it's, it's cranking up. I'm sure you've seen the, the various air show schedules that have popped out and hopefully you're looking at the fly in schedules. Means it's time to get ready. How do you get ready? You get out there and practice your panning, get that ~£10 weight, start doing curls with your your left arm. SEEGER Properly handhold, you know, for more than 5 minutes and not get a cramp. I say that because, yeah, you know who I'm talking about, because that happened to you just recently and you're got to practice your panning. I would head towards the airport, get on outside the fence. Just practice panning back and forth. Keep on. Practice that hand-holding during the week. Practice the hand, the panning on the weekend, crank that shutter, speed down. Get down to 60 and 40th with confidence. You will really, really amp up your photo quality and more importantly, storytelling. And. In this process. Find those statics you can start shooting. Keep in mind that guess who was right before Christmas? My aviation finishing class 2023 was posted on Kilby one. Why go through all the updated techniques, which includes using decorative fill and all that great stuff? It's time to practice that as well. Why would you want to practice that? Well, let's just go with the best case scenario, because. The worst case. Yeah. You just don't take pictures, right? So the best case scenario is you practice your panning, you get that maybe you gear going to get that new lens for statics at Z 2472 eight Killer lens for statics. And even after shooting, you go to that fly and you go to the airshow, you get that shot and you want to be able to share with that pilot or that plane owner. As a way of, you know, introducing yourself, your photography, to perhaps associate yourself more with them and do more work with them. Well, the time to act, to master those things you need to shoot for the subject and finish for the light. Ah, now, so when you had that shot on your monitor, you knew exactly how you were to finish it. There's no delay. There's confidence. And believe me. The sooner you can put a print in their hands. Impresses them when it takes weeks or months. You know, that adrenaline, that good feeling they had

from that flying, that that air show you get it's life, right? It kind of, you know, washes away. But when you hit them right off the bat with that, they'll go, Oh, yeah. And it kind of brings all that back to them. And they eventually associate all that with you because when you're gone, they've got your print. So spring, you know, getting ready for spring right now, daylight here. It's getting dark just before six. You know, we've gone past the the winter equinox, so it's slowly getting brighter, but a little bit of cabin fever time at night. Hey, you can't can't do it all, everything you want now. So get behind that computer and practice those. Hold those skill, shoot for the subject, finish for the light. Now, is that all that you might want to do to get ready for spring? Oh, heck, no, man is a ton of things that you might want to be doing, but those are some of the basics that I think if you start doing those, you'll go, Oh yeah, I should do this. Oh yeah, I should do that. Get that pencil paper, get the two connected right down that list. It just amazing how it feeds on itself. And in that process we grow. And of course, photography becomes more successful, funner and more satisfying. You folks have a marvelous week. Thanks for spend a little time with me. And remember to make every click. Your story.